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# Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People!

## YANKEE GO HOME!

VIETNAM COURIER

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# UNHEARD-OF CRIMES RECENTLY PERPETRATED BY THE U. S.

**IN NORTH VIETNAM**
- **Savage Bombing of Viet Tri and Thai Nguyen Cities: Many Civilian Casualties — Destruction of Economic and Cultural Endertakings**

**IN SOUTH VIETNAM**
- **Ben Suc Town Put to Fire and Sword and Erased From the Map — 8,000 Persons Herded in "Refugee" Camp**
- **Complete Destruction of a Vast Region North of Saigon by Explosive and Magnesium Bombs**

**Crimes perpetrated by the U.S. at Thai Nguyen and Viet Tri on Jan. 17 and 18, 1967**

Above *(left to right)*:

*— Tuc Duyen village (Thai Nguyen) destroyed*

*— A worker at Viet Tri wounded by shrapnel capsules*

Below *(left to right)*:

*The church and shrine in Doan Ket Catholic quarter demolished*

# DUE PUNISHMENT TO THE U. S. AGGRESSORS:

**IN NORTH VIETNAM** **7 U. S. PLANES DOWNED IN ONE DAY** (Jan. 21)

**IN SOUTH VIETNAM** **In Ben Suc (Thu Dau Mot) Region in 17 days: 857 GIs and Puppet Troops Put Out of Action — 60 Vehicles Destroyed or Damaged — 10 Planes and Helicopters Downed**

*NEW U.S. ESCALATION:*

# AIR RAIDS OVER VIET TRI AND THAI NGUYEN CITIES

THE D.R.V. Commission for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Vietnam on January 21 held a press conference to denounce U.S. air attacks on economic establishments and densely populated areas in the industrial cities of Viet Tri and Thai Nguyen in North Vietnam.

**PHAM VAN BACH**, *Vice-Chairman of the Commission, declared:*

"While 'escalating' their war in North Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have perpetrated in South Vietnam extremely barbarous crimes similar to Hitler's during World War II. They have razed to the ground with bombs and bulldozers the district capital of Ben Suc in Thu Dau Mot province, and herded 8,000 civilians into the Phu Cuong concentration camp. U.S. B.52 strategic planes also rained in this province hundreds of tons of magnesium bombs, burning a forest covering scores of square kilometres.

"...Such acts have laid bare ever more plainly the utterly aggressive, reactionary and warlike nature of the U.S. war criminals. They have also thrown a strong light on the hypocritical and deceitful nature of the U.S. 'peace negotiation' hoax".

**LE LINH LOI**, *Head of the Viet Tri City Committee for Investigation, denounced:*

"Prior to January 15, U.S. planes had conducted many reconnaissance flights over populated areas in Viet Tri city. At 3.05 p.m. on January 15, many F.105 jet planes coming in many waves and at an altitude of 2,000 or 3,000 metres, dropped 28 explosive bombs and 4 "mother" bombs (about 1,500 capsules) on many residential quarters in the city, mainly on Thuan Luong hamlet and the Dong Luc co-operative, whose main crops are rice and vegetables. Two persons including a woman were killed, and 11 others among them 4 women, 5 children and school children were wounded, 22 houses were burnt.

"At 7.05 a.m.on January 18 when it was still misty, scores of U.S. planes came in many waves and at altitudes from 4,000 to 5,000 metres and dropped C.B.U. bombs then explosive, gas and time bombs on the densely populated districts and the hospital and infant class of the city. U.S. planes released 52 explosive bombs, 2 gas bombs, 2 time-bombs and 6 "mother" bombs (containing about 3,000 capsules), killing 20 persons including 8 children and wounding 68 others among them 15 children. 8 houses were burnt and 129 others demolished. C.B.U. bombs dropped on the city hospital caused great damage to the establishment and medical equipment.

"In Doan Ket district where there were 47 households and a church, the enemy dropped 6 explosive and gas bombs. The persons killed included 3 of the 9 members of the family of Mr. Nguyen Van Tho, 41: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kep, 39, his wife, Nguyen Thi Tam, 15, and little Nguyen Van Giang in his mother's arms.

"In Minh Tan hamlet, Mr. Le Quang Toai and his wife Nguyen Thi Hoa, both 44, were buried in the shelter together with their 6 children. Their sons Le Van Tuan, 6 months old and Le Huu Toa, 6 years were killed, and they themselves vomited blood due to bomb pressure. All property was destroyed.

"In the same district, a bomb was dropped on a co-operative rice pancake shop run by 5 members, one was killed and the other 4 were injured, the shop was completely demolished."

*DUONG QUYEN, Deputy-Head of the Thai Nguyen City Committee for Investigation, denounced:*

"At 7.15 a.m on January 17, American jets came in many waves to attack residential quarters of Thai Nguyen city.

"In Tuc Duyen district, 6 explosive bombs were dropped on an area less than 400 square metres. At Quan Trieu, after raining 8 explosive bombs, they unleashed 2 CBU "mother" bombs, killing instantly 3 persons among them 2 old people—Mr. Dang Van Bich, 67, and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, 65. Besides, 64 explosive bombs and 6 CBU bombs were showered on the quarters of Xuan Tien-Thien, Gia Sang Luu Xa stretching over 3 km, killing 7 persons and injuring 16 others including 4 women and children. 38 civilian houses were burnt or seriously damaged. Several economic establishments were damaged.

"Thus, the airraid on the morning of January 17 resulted in 10 civilians killed, 16 others wounded among them 5 women and children.

At 3.10 p.m. on that day, U.S. planes again raided other residential quarters of the city. At Xuan Quang, 13 explosive bombs and 10 CBU "mother" bombs containing thousands of small anti-personnel bombs were dropped, 5 explosive bombs and 2 CBU "mother" bombs on the hospital, causing one dead and 6 wounded. Meanwhile, the Luu Xa quarter was showered with 18 explosive bombs and 6 CBU "mother" bombs: many civilian casualties were recorded and considerable civilian property damaged.

"Mr. Bich and his wife were killed while their children and grandchildren were away. Mr. Doi, a worker, was survived by his pregnant wife and a child. The school girl Le Thi Tam was killed, leaving behind her blind father and her little brother."

*Victims of shrapnel capsules: Little Thuy, 11, at Thai Nguyen, and Mrs. Do Thi Duyen, 66, at Viet Tri*

*Ricefields around Viet Tri devastated*

*Real image of U.S. "Rural Pacification" plan*

# BEN SUC WIPED OFF THE MAP

ON January 8, 1967, 30,000 U.S. troops of Infantry Divisions 1 and 25 and paratroop Brigade 173, Light Infantry Brigade 196 and other supporting detachments, conducted Operation *Cedar Falls* northeast of Saigon. It was part of the so-called rural pacification plan aiming at raiding, occupying land and controlling people.

Below are excerpts from Western press agencies' dispatches on the operation and on the attack on Ben Suc:

### TO WIN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS AND MINDS

*AP*, January 12:

"U.S. authorities decided upon drastic measures, in secrecy, the Vietnamese (puppet troops, *Ed.*) being informed only on the eve of the operation.

"... Sixty helicopters landed a battalion of U.S. infantrymen on three sides of the town, leaving the open end to armed helicopters. Air force planes bombed and strafed the jungles north of the town.

"... As the helicopters landed, people in the village ran in all directions, diving into the holes and houses. Several men tried to escape. Three were gunned down.

"/... By late Sunday, 3,800 men, women and children were gathered in the center of town.

"Vietnamese soldiers (puppet army, *Ed.*) started hunting through the houses of Ben Suc, loading their packs with chickens, and cooking rice they were discovering.

"Ben Suc is scheduled to be wiped off the map when the residents leave".

*AFP* Jan, 13:

"The six-day-old operation claimed counting 237 Vietcong (civilians - *Ed.*) dead by tonight, most of them killed by bombing raids and artillery. The twelfth B.52 raid of the week hammered a complex of four Vietcong base camps in the triangle before dawn today."

### THE GHOST OF NGO DINH DIEM APPEARS

*AP*, January 16:

"300 buildings, a market place, 2,600 men, women and children and their tears and laughter, chickens and water buffalo.

"That had been Ben Suc. Monday (Jan. 9) it was gone, systematically made to disappear by American bulldozers.

"A three-story concrete building was a five-foot pile of rubble. The bulldozers had flattened homes until only a pole, part of a buddhist altar, or an occasional clay pot protruded from the dust. Bonfires cracked in several places. The market place was tangled heaps of debris divided by a dirt road."

*AP*, January 14:

"Sweating American officials and Vietnamese (puppet Ed.) soldiery were attempting to get yet another convoy moving South down the river.

"'Washington Is Stepping Up the War More Than Ever'

AFTER Johnson's new "peace campaign" following the impression of U.S. "de-escalation" for "negotiation good will" purpose — expression used by the U.S. psychowar apparatus — the Washington war hawks have been making one criminal escalation after another in Vietnam since the beginning of this year, witness the latest events.

In **South Vietnam**, while the U.S. expeditionary troops began to deploy into the Mekong river delta, bloody "pacification" raids were launched from Operation *Deckhouse V* to Operation *Cedar Falls*. The latter involved an unprecedented American force, scores of B.52 bombings, hundreds of incendiary bombs, and toxic gas sprayings to devastate vast areas in Thu Dau Mot province. Ben Suc was thus completely levelled and its 8,000 inhabitants herded into concentration camps. So much so that Western press likened these atrocities to Hitler's crimes in Dresden and other massacres in Europe. Meanwhile, the American rulers admitted that B.52s had been transferred to strategic bases in Thailand to extend the flames of war to the whole of South East Asia (*UPI*, January 19), and U.S. strength in South Vietnam has reached 400,000 men, greater than at any time of the Korean war.

In **North Vietnam**, American aircraft bombed Viet Tri and Thai Nguyen industrial centres, hit at populous quarters and economic bases in an attempt to subdue a nation through hunger and misery. On January 20, 1967, they attacked ten crowded villages in Thanh Hoa, killing and wounding over 100 civilians. On January 22, populous quarters, public buildings and trading stores in Thai Binh town were struck at as well as other populous areas in the province, and many people killed. For two days (January 21 and 22), Ninh Binh town was also raided and suffered no small losses. It is to be noted that after bombing the Tra Linh sluice, a major irrigation work on the Thai Binh river (January 16), American flyers again bombed many sections of the dikes along the Tra Ly river, while the people were growing winter-spring crop. In the latest raids, fragmentation bombs were dropped extensively together with 3,000-pound explosive bombs as western sources disclosed.

The increasingly fierce attacks on populous quarters at a moment when world opinion is condemning the U.S. Air Force for killing the civilians in the D.R.V., constitute an impudent challenge by the Pentagon.

There is not a shred of doubt that Washington and its valets in Saigon are taking delight in massacring Vietnamese and bringing the war to its fiercest. It is also stark clear that this machiavellian plan was worked out during gloomy nights at the White House after the setbacks on the South Vietnam battlefield. However, despite their truculence and cruelty, the American aggressors are not an inch nearer to victory.

"The methodical thud of bursting artillery shells and the nearer cracks of sniper bullets added to these scenes of war.

"Burning homes, crying children, frightened women, devastated fields, long lines of slowly moving refugees, brought back memories of the resettlement of millions of peasants during the era of the late Ngo Dinh Diem and of the scorched-earth policies in other wars.

"The population was not happy to leave, and the temporary refugee camp they were moved to near the Binh Duong province capital, Phu Cuong, hardly inspired their confidence.

"Meanwhile, scores of bulldozers set about remodeling the countryside, grinding down troublesome patches of jungle, cutting swaths through the iron triangle to facilitate future military operations, and carving out helicopter landing zones in the middle of the northern jungles.

"The commander of the 1st infantry division, Major General William E. Depuy, explained: "The best way to get the enemy to stop fighting and to give himself up is to hit him with the heaviest amount of artillery fire and aerial bombardment that is possible. We can drive him out that way".

### PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE NEVER TO BE QUENCHED

*AP, Jan. 12, 1967:*

"The 50 village elders sat tensely in the old, burned-out school house as the Vietnamese province official told them, 'You and your people must leave this town, abandon it'.

'You cannot take your houses, but we will arrange transport for your cattle, your chickens and your children. You will be safely taken to a refugee center'.

"This was the first time a whole town had been moved. The village elders did not like it.

'We dont want to give up our fields and our homes', their leader told the Vietnamese official. 'We have worked here all our lives, we have had nothing from the government in years... We don't want to abandon our birth place either'.

...'A government battalion once was based there but

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# INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIME TRIBUNAL FIRST INVESTIGATION TEAM DENOUNCES AMERICAN CRIMES IN NORTH VIETNAM

THE First Investigation Team of the Bertrand Russell International War Crime Tribunal arrived recently in North Vietnam to investigate the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Vietnam.

It comprised:

—**Leon Matarasso**, a French barrister at the Paris Court, Chairman of the Law Committee of the International Tribunal,

—**Setsure Tsurushima**, a Japanese professor of economics at Osaka University, Assistant Secretary-General of the International Tribunal,

—**Jean Pierre Vigier**, a French physicist, professor at Paris University,

After making clear that the purpose of the B. Russell International War Crime Tribunal is to try the U.S. war criminals in Vietnam, Leon Matarasso, head of the team clearly pointed out:

"*Since our arrival in North Vietnam we have visited dozens of localities and contacted scores of witnesses. We have read many documents and examined many material evidences. Now we can conclude with certainty that the U.S. has conducted large scale and systematic air raids on purely civilian targets in North Vietnam. We can assert that large numbers of hospitals, schools, residential quarters, churches, pagodas and temples, dykes and dams have been bombed. These places bear a marked civilian character and can in no way be mistaken for military targets. Through our investigation, we have clearly seen that the U.S. has used weapons strictly banned by international law. These weapons are solely intended to massacre the civilian population such as 'lazy dog' bombs, napalm and phosphorous bombs*".

Leon Matarasso pointed out: "*By waging a war of aggression against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have sabotaged the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam which serve as the legal basis of the Vietnam problem*".

"*The U.S. imperialists are waging an aggressive war against Vietnam with means and methods strictly banned by international law. These acts are undeniable proofs of the war crimes committed by the United States in Vietnam*".

He concluded: "*Before arriving here, we imagined that the Vietnamese would run out of strength in face of the force of steel of the U.S. But contrary to our anticipation, we have found the Vietnamese people as optimistic, courageous and confident as ever. The Vietnamese people, mostly peasants, have risen up arms in hand and fought valiantly and staunchly against one of the biggest industrial powers of the world. We can demonstrate that they have fought with their absolute confidence in their final victory. And they themselves have inspired such a confidence in us*".

Speaking next, John Gerassy, an American journalist and writer, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Organisation in the U.S., listed undeniable proofs of U.S. air raids on the civilian population in Hanoi, Haiphong, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa and Vinh Phuc. "*These raids*," he said, "*were exclusively aimed at killing people, and shaking the Vietnamese people's fighting spirit. But it has also been proved that the fiercer the U.S. air raids, the firmer the Vietnamese people's determination to fight them. Never in history has there been a nation which is so closely united and so firmly determined to fight to the end against the enemy as the Vietnamese people.*

"*Probably what symbolizes the fight we have seen in Vietnam is the fact that modern aircraft of a country with the most advanced science and technique in the world have been shot down by Vietnamese peasants.*

"*In Thuy Dan (Thai Binh province) we have met peasants going to their fields with guns slung across their shoulders. I asked them with astonishment: 'Why don't you have fortifications or gun supports? How can you fire at them?' A peasant replied: 'When the planes come we'll use our own backs as gun supports'. Such a people will never knuckle under.*"

After giving a number of proofs of the use by the U.S. of toxic chemicals and poison gas, Jean Pierre Vigier, a French physicist and professor at Paris University pointed out that these weapons were not used against "concrete and steel" blocs as claimed by the U.S.; they were only intended to kill human lives and strictly prohibited by international law.

Jean Pierre Vigier introduced to the pressmen two male witnesses: Hoang Tuan Hung, 46, in Quang Ngai province (South Vietnam), a victim of phosphorous bombs dropped by the U.S. on May 10, 1965, and Hoang Van Hap, 26, a

(Continued page 6)

**Press conference held by the First Investigation Team**

Witnesses for the prosecution:

*In the middle: Mr. Hoang Tuan Hung, injured by a phosphorous bomb on May 10, 1965 in Quang Ngai province (South Vietnam),*

*Right: Mr. Hoang Van Hap, napalmed in the north of the demilitarized zone on Feb. 22, 1965.*

—**John Gerassy**, an American journalist and writer, Director of the Bertrand Russell Peace Organisation in the U.S.

—**Malcolm Caldwell**, a British professor of economics at London University.

—**Wilfred Burchett**, an Australian journalist, and

—**Roger Pic**, a French journalist and T.V. reporter.

On January 12, 1967, at a press conference, the team spoke about the activities during its stay in North Vietnam.

# Tran Thi Ly, A MILITIA HEROINE

*Ly's native village lies on the bank of the Nhat Le river, near Dong Hoi town. During the anti-French resistance, it was surrounded on all sides by enemy troops, but Ly's house remained a safe shelter for resistance cadres. Night after night, the local people made their way secretly through enemy encirclement, carrying rice to the resistance bases.*

*Stories of this heroic past urged Ly to follow the examples of her elders. She wanted to join the militia and fight the American aggressors to defend her native land. But the village militia command refused to enlist her yet on the ground of her green age. Ly was so sad that often she could hardly swallow her food. Her fellow-villagers used to tease her, "You are so small you can hardly carry a gun. How can you fight?"*

*Ly turned a deaf ear to all this. She kept insisting, "Let me join the militia. I'll accept any assignment".*

*Finally, the militia command agreed. She was then only 17.*

*First, she was made a messenger. This didn't quite fit her as she wanted to give battle, but the political instructor talked her round: "Your job is like that of blood vessels linking the various parts of the body. It's a position of trust, you know". So Ly gladly accepted it. Night or day, rain or shine, she was on the road carrying messages and orders.*

*On February 7, 1965, a frenzied raid was launched by U.S. aircraft. Ly and her friends were planting trees for the Lunar New Year festival when the alarm sounded. She immediately rushed back to her combat position. "Your job is like that of blood vessels..." the political instructor's words came back to her mind as she made for the militia command post, amidst deafening bomb explosions and blinding smoke and dust.*

*"Comrade commander, this is Ly, messenger, reporting for duty!" she said, standing at attention. The militia commander immediately gave her a message. She dashed to the river bank.*

*She jumped into her boat and pushed it off. Hardly had the craft left the shore when enemy aircraft swooped down on it. Bombs and shells threw up columns of water which put it about. But Ly calmly and forcefully steered it back into her course and rowed on. A splinter knocked a hole in her boat, but she managed to cross the river and fulfil her task. As she was about to row back, she heard someone calling to her. It was Thuat, the secretary of the village party committee. He stepped on board, took the oars and said, "Let me do the rowing. Bombs are falling like hail".*

*"No, I know you're still weak from illness. I'll pull".*

*As the secretary insisted, saying that she was too small, she added in a firm voice, "It's my job to ferry you across the river. You said I am too small: never mind, I'll offer only a small target to the planes. Now, you just crouch down: you'll be less of a target for their shells and bomb splinters".*

*On April 4, 1965, she went to a village across the river, where she worked as a wat-weaver. As she was on her way, U.S. aircraft came to attack the town of Dong Hoi. Ly immediately retraced her steps. American planes were thundering overhead. On the bank of the river, she found no boat. She jumped into the water and started swimming, holding her rifle above the water with one hand. Enemy bombs spirted high columns of water, violent waves shock the river, which seemed to grow much wider. But the valiant girl kept advancing. Soon she reached the shore, and broke into a run towards her combat position.*

*to a truly splendid record: 37 American aircraft downed in a single day.*

*When the fighting was over, Ly joined in the rescue work. Finding a collapsed shelter, she started digging. Soon she heard the faint wail of a child. Other rescuers came: soon they dug out a woman and her baby, a 15-year-old boy, an old man and a pregnant woman.*

*Chu, a village militiaman, was about to enlist in the regular army. His house together with all his belongings had been burnt to ashes by American air attacks. The day he left, Ly gave him a jacket which had belonged to her brother.*

*"When uniforms are issued to you, keep this jacket as a souvenir: it will remind you of the crimes of the American aggressors and you will fight them all the more resolutely".*

*This recommendation was also meant for herself. Ly devoted all her efforts to both production work and the fighting. She was entrusted with the management of salt-marshes, then of a mat-weaving workshop, then of other salt-marshes. Every where she went, she strove, together with other co-op members, to overcome all obstacles and score great successes in production in spite of repeated enemy attacks. Salt output was increased two and a half times; the income of mat-weavers was also up two or three times. As rush supplies ran short, she urged co-op members to grow the rushes themselves. Once enemy bombs dug big craters in the salt marshes. That very night, the craters were filled.*

*She looked so firm and confident that the secretary smiled and sat down, Ly worked the oars hard, stretching her body as though she wanted to turn it into a shield for her passenger.*

*"You're a courageous girl", the secretary said. "Your late father was a very valiant fighter, too".*

*Ly was moved to tears by these words. When her boat reached the bank, she quickly pulled it ashore and dashed to her combat post. There she was asked to carry ammunition. Each case was heavier than her own weight, but she carried it with ease over the rough road.*

*But some one shouted to her: "Comrade Ly! You can't go there yet. Take shelter, quick!"*

*Ly, her eyes glued on the distant trenches, kept running.*

*"It's an order!" the voice again shouted. "Take shelter!"*

*Recognising the voice as the squad leader's, Ly jumped into a trench and loaded her rifle. Eight bombs fell in succession nearby. But together with the entire squad, Ly waited until the planes came within range.*

*At a given moment, looking up, she saw a string of bombs falling. Quick as lightning, she dashed to another foxhole. "Even if I were to die, I should keep my gun intact so that other comrades could use it," she thought to herself as she sat hunched in the foxhole, clasping her rifle and protection it with her body. The bombs exploded quite close. Ly was half buried by the earth they threw up. When her comrades pulled her out, she quickly cleaned her gun and went on fighting.*

*That day, the people and armed forces of Quang Binh shot down two American aircraft, contributing, together with their comrades of Ham Rong, Nam Ngan (Thanh Hoa), Nghe An and Vinh Linh,*

*(Continued page 4)*

ON March 11, 1965, Ly was admitted to the Vietnam Workers' Party. At the ceremony, she was so moved she could hardly speak. Before the Party banner, she swore to fulfil all tasks entrusted by the Party, in spite of all difficulties, hardships and sacrifices. The same day, she was given a rifle and a box of cartridges. Thenceforth, together with the village militia, she was to take a direct part in fighting U.S. aircraft. She engaged wholeheartedly in military training: her rifle was constantly by her side.

## I — A GRIM TRIAL OF STRENGTH, A 3-POINT VICTORY OF OUR FORCES

1966 a year of grim trial of strength in South Vietnam between the people and the Liberation Armed Forces on the one hand and the big U.S. expeditionary force, the puppet and satellite troops on the other, ended in glorious victories for us and repeated heavy setbacks in all fields for the enemy...

Nothing can testify to the most desperate situation of the American aggressors and their henchmen more eloquently than the hard facts which took place on the theatre of operation during the past year, a very striking one was that they had to pour in reinforcements three times in a year and each time they failed.

The three milestones of U.S. setbacks were:

— the 1965 - 1966 dry-season strategic counter-offensive.

— the 1966 wet season stage of passive contention,

— the present 1966 - 1967 dry-season counter-offensive.

First, **the 1965-1966 dry-season strategic counter-offensive**: Facing collapse by mid-1965, the Americans abandoned their "special warfare" strategy and in a desperate attempt to make good their failure started a "limited war", sharply raising the number of U.S. expeditionary troops to 200,000 within a short time. They had initially earmarked 6 billion dollars for war expenditure in South Vietnam, which was boosted early in 1966 to 12 billion for the whole year, i.e., twice as much as what they had spent annually in the Korean war. They substantially built up and had available 2,000 aircraft including B.52 strategic bombers and nearly 1,000 pieces of artillery of various calibres, among them ultra-rapid 175mm and 203mm guns (approximately the fire power used in Korea). With such a force, the American aggressors and their lackeys trumpeted about an all-round dry-season strategic counter-offensive on all battlefields. They boasted they would wipe out a division of "Viet Cong" regulars, concentrate one million inhabitants, establish 1,000 "strategic hamlets" within the framework of the "pacification" plan, increase the ratio of strength between the U.S. and L.A.F. to 4-to-1 in their favour and bring the war to an early victory, etc.

Relying on their troop strength and the quantity of their war materials, the U.S. aggressors and their valets launched successive large-scale raids sensationally described as "search and destroy" campaigns...

...The Americans who thought of winning a military victory sustained bitter losses in the first round of the battle. The one who got his backbone broken in the 1965 - 1966 dry-season was not the Viet Cong but the U.S. aggressors themselves. And the all-round strategic counter-offensive brought them and their stooges only frustration and despair.

...When **the 1966 monsoon** came, they lost all their initial truculence, faced with an utter political confusion due first and foremost to the powerful struggle of our compatriots in urban centres and were kept in the constant fear of an imminent large scale "Viet Cong" offensive. The invaders and their henchmen were thus compelled to switch over to a defensive strategy during the rainy season:

1. Prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

# A YEAR OF GRIM TRIAL OF STRENGTH, A YEAR OF SPLENDID VICTORIES

**BY THE SOUTH VIETNAM L. A. F. COMMENTATOR**

2. Stabilize the rear areas by all means — terror, repression, bribery, division; crush all opposition so as to preserve the Thieu - Ky clique from collapse.

3. Step up more powerfully the "pacification" plan in view of immediate and long-range objectives.

4. Continue increasing the effectives of armed forces and means of war in preparation for a major counter-offensive after the rainy season.

Aware of the weak points of the enemy, the South Vietnam Liberation armed forces had devised very original and flexible fighting methods, bringing into play the surprise factor, so that, in spite of his "defensive plans in store" the enemy was unable to parry our blows and to cope with them efficaciously. Not being able to bring to fruition the four points of his defensive strategy and thereby to firmly maintain his position during the monsoon season, he met with four surprises, that is, four major defeats on the battlefronts.

*First surprise:* While the adversary dreaded a big action by the L.A.F. in the Western High Plateaux and Eastern Nam Bo, the Quang Tri and Thua Thien armed forces unexpectedly attacked him powerfully. The operation had a great impact on the whole military situation and on the political movement which was spreading in urban centres at that time. So much so that to stave off the "imminent fall of Hue", the enemy hurriedly brought in nearly two divisions of American and Pak Jung Hi troops. This upset his whole military plan, frittered the disposition of his forces, scattered his combat operations and deprived him of the initiative of action during the rainy season. Meanwhile, the L.A.F. and population in Quang Tri and Thua Thien steadily continued to take the offensive and killed hundreds of adverse troops, extended the liberated areas to hundreds of villages and hamlets, and freed many thousands of people from enemy's grip.

*Second surprise:* The relentless struggle waged by the townsfolk scored progress in both the political and military fields. Their political struggle attained an extremely extensive development and was better organized and led; the masses put forth everywhere, particularly at Dalat, Hue and Saigon, exacting political slogans demanding that "Thieu Ky resign and the Yankees "go home". Their armed struggle also made very important headway.

*Third surprise:* We scored successes in the communication front. Most remarkable were the engagements on waterways (more than ten enemy vessels were sunk in the Long Tau river, including one 10,000-ton ship) and on land communications (destruction of armoured vehicles on Highway 13 in Eastern Nam Bo). Strategic arteries like the Mang Thit and Dong Nai rivers, Highways 1, 5, 20 and 4, and the North-South Railway remained interdicted, so that the enemy had to mobilize entire regiments to protect his military convoys which however could not escape the L.A.F.'s ambushes, and that U.S. troops were detailed to mount guard without being able to avoid our blows (as at Can Dam and Can Le on Highway 13).

*Fourth surprise:* during the wet season, the plain theatre witnessed an even and powerful development of our forces in all regions.

Our successes on this theatre of operations stemmed from our efforts to **give guerilla warfare a new step forward**, from the valiant spirit shown by our fighters who clung to the people, to the ground, to production, and from their determination to frustrate enemy raids. They were also due to **the guiding principle according to which the L.A.F. had to make deep thrusts into the enemy exposed** areas, hold on and from there fan out with a view to crushing adverse garrisons and posts, suppressing wicked thugs, destroying "strategic hamlets" and smashing the "pacification" plan. This line was so effectively applied that the enemy bitterly complained that in certain places, in a single night, all the people impounded in "strategic hamlets" had left for the *Viet cong*-controlled areas". Those initial results were very inspiring.

When **the 1966 - 1967 dry season** set in, with 400,000 U.S. troops (twice as many as at the same period in 1965) nearly 2,000 military vehicles (three times more) some 3,000 aircraft of various types (one and a half times more) and 24 billion dollars (the double of what had been earmarked early in 1966), like a gambler incensed by his losses, the American aggressors and their lackeys made feverish preparations for a new counter-offensive. If they had more forces and war means at their disposal than in the previous dry season, they had not forgotten the bitter lessons drawn from it. Therefore, although they recklessly embarked on the same strategic schemes, and continued to strike at us in two fronts by a military offensive and "pacification" work, they were aware that the forte of the South Vietnamese people was also the foible of the U.S. troops. Consequently, they showed less recklessness and more cautiousness than in the last dry season, and used more machiavellian methods to reach their strategic aims.

But diamond cuts diamond. Confronted with the enemy's new schemes and designs, we have armed ourselves with an iron-like determination to foil them and prepared our forces so as to enable them to win greater victories than in the past dry season.

Though still in its initial stage, the 1966 - 1967 dry season has witnessed the following important developments:

***First, we have been holding the initiative of action, attacking the enemy and driving him into a defensive position since the very beginning.*** The shelling of the site — right in the heart of Saigon — of the Nov. 1, 1966 celebrations heralded the winter offensive campaign of the L.A.F. Before the enemy counter-acted, the next day, the L.A.F. launched an attack on American and puppet units who were feverishly making preparations for a big raid in Tay Ninh province and telling blows were dealt to them before they started deploying. Immediately, Westmoreland gathered all U.S. mobile forces in Nam Bo — Infantry Divisions 1 and 25, Paratroop Brigade 173, Light Infantry Brigade 196 and Armoured Regiment 11 (30,000 men in all) and dispatched them to the Duong Minh Chau zone in an attempt to knock out a powerful regular L.A.F. unit in Eastern Nam Bo allegedly stationed there. But it turned out that nearly three American divisions were pinned down in a remote jungle corner of the Duong Minh Chau zone. The G.I.'s were wiped out when fanning out or attacked by surprise or repeatedly bombarded by artillery when digging in. An entire brigade was practically put out of action in the first few days. The adversary used most varied tactics: decoys to lure the L.A.F. into their traps, helicopter and armoured transport, airpower (even by B.52s), ultra-rapid artillery, round-the-clock shelling, highly concentrated noxious chemicals sprayed wantonly. All that did not help the most famous U.S. units make any gain. They just roamed about round a corner of the Tay Ninh jungle, driven to bay and into an utter passive state.

Second, meantime the L.A.F. in the Western High Plateaux managed to ***entice American and puppet troops to the eastern and western sides of the Sa They river where they knocked down several of their units in well fought battles.*** They also mounted annihilating assaults on many enemy battalions in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. In the Saigon area, our armed forces and people, coordinating their action with those in Tay Ninh and the Western High Plateaux, launched fierce attacks — twice on Tan Son Nhat airfield and three times on the big Long Binh ammunition depot — causing very heavy losses to the enemy.

*A L.A.F. unit going to the front*

Meanwhile in the Central and Western Nambo provinces such as Long An, Ben Tre, Rach Gia, Can Tho, in the course of successive strikes, we smashed many garrisons and posts, promoted guerilla warfare, repressed spies and wicked notables and thugs, thereby expanding the liberated areas and dealing rather hard blows at the enemy's "pacification" plan.

Third, the above developments turned the biggest U.S. combat operation to date into a most bitter setback, and ***the first round of the 1966-67 dry-season into a bloody and tragic curtain-raiser for the Americans and puppets.***

Although in 1966 we met with a number of difficulties caused by the adversary, we scored great victories and the situation was basically favourable to us. **Because we possessed an invincible revolutionary and people's war line, a correct leadership, a very high combativeness, which have enabled and will enable us to overcome all difficulties and achieve still greater victories.**

*(to be continued)*

## INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

IN 1966, the Hanoi engineering industry scored a record increase of 65.5%.

*Electric transformers ready for delivery*

Several new items such as the 63-ton punchers, 150 H.P. motor boats, 100-ton lighters, paper cranks and 2.8kw rice threshers were produced in series. In the Hanoi suburbs, 3 districts, 39 villages and 120 agricultural co-ops brought in over 5 tons of paddy per ha, for the whole year. The "Hanoi — Hue — Saigon" co-op surpassed the 7-ton mark. 125 co-ops were supplied with electricity and 159 with engineering facilities.

IN 1966, Haiphong built 7 more industrial enterprises. Engineering workshops at district level were equipped with more machine-tools of various kinds. Phu Tho province produced a volume of insecticide 4 times bigger than in 1965. In the last 4 months, regional industry in Ha Tay province supplied 2 times as many improved frames for carts and spades as in 1965.

# HERE AND THERE in D. R. V.

HOA BINH, an up-land province, has over recent years built 850 km of inter-village and inter-hamlet roads as well as lanes connecting villages and hamlets with the open fields, 300 km of them stone paved. Communications between district towns and villages have helped the mountain people develop production and improve economic and cultural life.

*(Continued page 7)*

# THE WHOLE WORLD SUPPORTS US

## Japanese Workers Refuse to Make Bomb Fuses for U. S. Vietnam Aggression

RECENTLY, 30 workers of the Mikagiri industrial company in Minato street, Tokyo, have refused to produce napalm bomb fuses for South Vietnam. These workers belong to the metallurgical Trade Union of Japan.

Late in 1966, slighting a 500,000 *yen* reward of the company, the workers categorically declared that they would not produce bombs to be used to kill the Vietnamese people.

## British Communist Party Calls on Britons to Struggle to Stop U.S. Vietnam War

ON January 16, 1967, the Central Committee of the British Communist Party released a statement appealing the people of Britain to take urgent measures to promote the movement in support of the Vietnamese people and urge the U.S. to stop its bombings against the D.R.V. and withdraw all U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

The statement called on the British people to intensify their struggle to end the British Government's collusion with the U.S. imperialists in their war of aggression in Vietnam.

# INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIME...

(Continued from page 3)

peasant of Van Kieu national minority in Vinh Linh area (North Vietnam), wounded by U.S. napalm bombs on February 22, 1965.

The journalists could see many scars on their bodies which evoked the painful images of the victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, victims whom Vigier had seen with his own eyes.

He pointed out: *"In the history of mankind there are peoples who shoulder the burdens for the whole world. At present the Vietnamese people are shouldering that heavy task. Of course, all peoples have the right to decide their own destinies. But the struggle of the Vietnamese people has also close relations with the struggles of other peoples. All freedom-loving people who are watching the Vietnamese people's struggle have seen that that struggle will be certainly victorious."*

Another member of the investigation team, Setsure Tsurushima, a Japanese professor of economics of Osaka University and Assistant Secretary-General of the International Tribunal, also gave many evidences and listed concrete figures of U.S. air raids on dykes and irrigation works, rural markets and agricultural cooperatives with the aim of sabotaging North Vietnam's agricultural economy. He warmly praised the achievements of North Vietnam's agriculture, particularly in raising paddy yearly output to five tons per hectare in many localities.

Setsure Tsurushima added: *"The U.S. bombing of dykes and irrigation works could not prevent agricultural development in North Vietnam. It is clear that U.S. bombs and bullets have failed to shake the fighting will of the Vietnamese farmers. Meanwhile, South Vietnam which was known as a granary of Indo-China and was a former rice exporter now has to import rice due to U.S. occupation".*

Setsure Tsurushima said that he had seen with his own eyes the good development of North Vietnam's agriculture in spite of intensive air raids by the U.S. This had inspired his firm confidence in the final victory of the Vietnamese people, he concluded.

## News from LAOS

### SETTING UP OF U.S. B.52'S THAILAND BASE CONDEMNED

BY *NEO LAO HAKSAT*

THE *Neo Lao Haksat* Central Committee on January 17, 1967 issued a statement pointing out clearly that by setting up a base for B.52 strategic planes in Thailand, on the Asian continent, the U.S. imperialists had taken an extremely serious step further in the intensification and expansion of the war of aggression in Laos and Vietnam and directly menaced peace and security of the South-East Asian countries.

The statement stressed that the Thai reactionary authorities' permission for the U.S. imperialists to set up a base for B.52 strategic bombers in Thailand constituted a war provocation towards the Lao people, a gross encroachment on the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, and a violation of international law.

The *Neo Lao Haksat* Central Committee sternly warned the Thai reactionary authorities against the consequences of the above-mentioned military collusion with the U.S. imperialists.

## News from CAMBODIA

### U.S. IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS' CRIMES AGAINST CAMBODIA EXPOSED BY INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL COMMISSION

AT a press conference in Pnom Penh on January 20, 1967 the Investigation Team of the International War Crime Tribunal announced the first results of its on-the-spot findings. Investigations undertaken in various border areas, it was pointed out, showed that Cambodia's frontier had been permanently subjected to armed aggression by the U.S. and its Saigon and Bangkok followers. These acts of aggression bore a criminal character as many civilians had been killed.

The team also made it clear that allegations about the so called "Ho Chi Minh trail" and the "Sihanouk trail" being used by the N.F.L. forces were completely groundless. It witnessed two violations of Cambodian territory by Saigon troops and American aircraft. The team was particularly struck when, in Chantaria village, Sway Rieng porovince, it saw the damages caused by U.S. napalm bombs: burning of dwelling houses, killing of people and, especially, invalidating many children. The sight of such a criminal act of the U.S. aggressors will be graven for ever in our minds, it said.

By way of conclusion, the team stated:

*"The United States and its followers in Saigon and Thailand pose a constant threat to the territory and neutrality of Cambodia. They have perpetrated many crimes which should be denounced to world public opinion".*

# For the Families of American Prisoners

ON the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, American pilots captured during their criminal raids on the territory of the D.R.V., were allowed to send greetings to their relatives and friends over the waves of *Voice of Vietnam Radio*. Following the last issue, we are publishing another message under the present heading.

To: Mr., Mrs. BENJAMIN F. BLACK
417 Washington Ave.
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
U.S.A.

*Hi Mom and Dad, hi there Diane, hi Ron, Al, Donnat Linda.*

*This is Art speaking to you from the D.R.V. I hope and pray that everyone is doing well back in good old Bethlehem. As far as I'm concerned, I'm in great shape.*

*I hope that you all enjoyed a happy Chanuka as I did. May we will all be together for the next one. I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. You might take a good strong drink for me, in my absence.*

*Diane, if you are listening, I want you to know that I love and miss you very much.*

*Mom, I really miss your delicious stuffed cabbages. You can all have fun fattening me up, when I return home.*

*By the way, today is Aunt Lirone's birthday. Please give her and the rest of the family in Honia, New Jersey, my very best.*

*Well, everyone take care and remember that God is with me and he will take good care of me.*

*Bye Bye*
*ART.*

ARTHUR N. BLACK — Aircraftman Registration number: AF 12666475
38th Air Rescue Squadron — Da Nang Base — captured on Sept. 20, 1965.

# NGUYEN CAO KY

## Booed and Hooted in Australia

EVEN before Ky set foot on Australia, many opposition parties and mass organizations in this country had raised their voices against him. All through his five-day sojourn, he was hooted and unmasked wherever he went. When he came to Canberra on January 18, though the Australian authorities had mobilized a considerable police force—the biggest so far on such occasions—even police dogs, Ky's first words were to express the wish that the Holt administration would properly see to his and his party's security. The population here took to the streets and staged a demonstration, shouting: "Fascist murderer, go home!". Mr. Calwell, an M.P., who led 700 demonstrators to the Government House and lodged a protest against Ky's visit, regarded this as a gloomy event in the history of Australia. Trade Unions in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland passed resolutions disapproving the administration's inviting Ky to Australia. On the same day of January 18, six airline catering trade-unions decided not to supply the planes chosen to take him and his party to Brisbane. Many people left Sydney for Canberra 320km away to voice their protest against the government's guest. They carried with them such slogans as: "The butcher go home!", "Long live Ho Chi Minh!".

The following day, many M.P.'s, Trade Union leaders, scientists, professors and students, demonstrated before the Parliament in Canberra, shouting "Ky the dictator!" and held up pennants demanding the Holt government to "return us our boys!"

On January 20, no sooner had Ky arrived at Brisbane than 2,000 people broke into the airfield and chanted: "Ky, go home!" They encircled his car, booted him, spoke out against the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam, and demanded the withdrawal of Australian mercenaries from South Vietnam.

In Sydney, on January 21 more than 3,000 people held a big protest demonstration carrying placards reading, "Lock up Holt and throw Ky away!" Numerous students among them displayed the DRV national flag. Before the gathering came to an end, they burnt Nguyen Cao Ky's life-size effigy bearing the words "Killer Ky!".

The next day, some 8,000 people surrounded the Government House in Melbourne where Holt was giving a reception in Ky's honour. They carried slogans condemning the American aggressors and branded Ky as a U.S. lackey. They demanded that the United States put an end to the bombing of North Vietnam, and that the Australian administration stop tailing after the Americans in their aggressive war in Vietnam. To avoid a confrontation with the indignant crowd, Ky came to the reception by helicopter. The other reason for this was that Australian mechanics had refused to repair Ky's DC-6 personal plane.





## JOHNSON'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

# THE U.S. IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY

ON January 12, 1966 in his State of the Union message, U.S. President Johnson bombastically declared to Congress: "I am here to recommend that you—the representatives of the richest nation on earth—bring the most urgent decencies to the life of all Americans..." He also boasted that U.S. economy was in a period of prosperity unprecedented in history, that the economic miracle of the U.S. allowed it to get both "gun and butter", that the economic consequences of the war in Vietnam "laid no unbearable burden on our resources..." therefore the U.S. could conduct both wars at the same time: the aggressive war in Vietnam and the war on poverty in the States, and he predicted both wars would be won.

But this year, after Johnson delivered his State of the Union message on January 10, 1967, public opinion in the United States and in the world was unanimous in commenting that it was the gloomiest speech ever made by Johnson since he became President, that it reflected the difficult situation at home, the burden of the war in Vietnam and the concentration of the arduous problems and trials confronting the United States.

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UNDER the impact of the aggressive war in Vietnam, the economic and financial situation of the U.S. is worsening day by day. Before Congress, Johnson had to admit part of the truth. He conceded that his "great society" program had in fact brought "painful experiences and errors", that "it was sometimes inappropriate and led to disappointments", "the war on poverty", he said, "like the war in Vietnam, is not a simple war", that it "contains errors and failures". He also said that he was concerned because consumer price "had risen more than we expected" although he had done his best to keep it down. He further reported that he had twice proposed plans for "restraining the speed of unbalanced development of the economy" which was "under inflationary pressures".

According to disclosures by the American press (which naturally are a far cry from the truth), in industrial production, except for a number of war industries, the rate of increase of social production has dropped to its lowest since 1961 (communiqué of the U.S. Trade Department). The three key branches of U.S. economy—the car industry, the steel industry and the building industry—are showing decline, both in production and sale. Other branches such as household appliances, textiles, leather wares, cigarettes, T.V. sets... are also on the downgrade.

The boom of 500 big firms producing war materials and the huge profits made by them "could not compensate for the chaos and irregularities in the economy" (*Combat*, Dec. 14, 1966).

Grain production has gone down by 4 per cent. Wheat reserve has dropped below the minimum level and is expected to continue to fall in 1966-1967 to even 10 million tons, that is 6 million tons below the minimum level (report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture).

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U.S. finance is in no better position. In 1966, the U.S. recorded a budget deficit of nearly 10 billion and the deficit would reach 20 billion in 1967 according to the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the U.S. Senate. Inflation is becoming "the most annoying of the burdens of the U.S." Prices, especially consumer prices, have increased by 14 per cent, the highest level in the past 10 years. The purchasing power of the dollar in 1966 dropped by 6 per cent compared with 1965. The index of gold reserve fell from 12.2 per cent in 1955 to 4.4 per cent in 1965. The loss of confidence in the dollar in the capitalist world is aggravating the gold hemorrhage in the United States, which caused U.S. gold reserve to fall to its lowest since 1930 (13.2 billion dollars), that is less than enough to meet a half of U.S. debts to foreign countries (28.2 billion). Walter Heller, former head of the President's Economic Advisory Council, predicted that in 1967 inflation would be even more serious.

To save the financial situation, Johnson had on the one hand to cut down expenditures on civilian projects, that is the already too meagre appropriations for the so-called "great society" program, and on the other to strike directly at the income of the American people, proposing a wage freeze, income tax surcharge and increase in other contributions of the people. This will unquestionably result in further slashing of the workers' real wage. According to unofficial statistics, the real wages of industrial workers in New York in September 1966 dropped by 5.4 per cent and those of building workers by 4.8 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 1965.

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LIKE in a chain reaction, the bitter failure of the U.S. imperialists in their aggressive war in Vietnam has entailed the bankruptcy of the demagogic policy of the Johnson clique. In the eyes of the American people, Johnson has fully revealed his true nature as a political careerist expert in trickery and making empty promises. The gloomy reality of U.S. economy directly resulting from the aggressive war in Vietnam has further widened the rift between the Washington ruling circles and the American people. It is also a hard fact which proves that the America which is claimed by the Johnson clique to possess "inexhaustible resources", in reality has its limitations and is weakening and declining. The economy of U.S. monopoly capital itself has revealed all its inherent weaknesses, and its fundamental contradictions are aggravating day by day.

The contradiction between "gun and butter" is in essence a conflict between the Johnson clique's stubborn intensification and expansion of their aggressive war in Vietnam and their demagogic and deceitful policy embodied in the so-called "great society program". It is becoming more and more acute and strongly influencing the social contradictions in the United States. This is one of the deep seated and fundamental causes of the ever broadening and more intense struggle of the American people of all strata against the Johnson ruling clique.

It is no accident that last year the struggle of the American working class for a better life became more vigorous, more widespread and more prolonged than in any previous year. The U.S. Labour Department admitted on December 30, 1966: The labour movement for wage increases has reached the largest dimensions for many years, embracing airline pilots, workers in the car, food, rail, textile, rubber, paper industries, the telephone service... It predicted that "about 7 million workers will be involved in the wagelift struggle".

Parallel with resolute strikes of the working class, the struggle of the American Negroes for better living conditions, democratic liberties and racial equality, has also assumed new proportions and taken a higher form under the "power to the Negro" watchword.

Neither is it accidental that the American press reports that 80 per cent of the American people have protested against the war in Vietnam—that the movement of the masses against this war is gaining both in scope and size and taking more and more diversified forms.

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WHERE will the aggressive war in Vietnam lead the Johnson clique? What are the prospects for 1967? The "National Planning Association?" of the U.S. monopolists predicted: "In 1967 the tempo of economic development in the United States will slow down, tax, unemployment and prices will increase and there will be more actions by the workers, the road ahead in 1967 will be much harder than in the previous years". Said *the New York Herald Tribune*: "To anyone who still has doubt, President Johnson has clearly outlined the prospects in Vietnam, that is "we will face more cost, more losses and more agony"."

The deeper they are engaged in the hopeless war of aggression in Vietnam, the tighter the Johnson clique are caught in a steel pincer: the heavy defeats on the Vietnam battlefield on the one hand and the dead fix and failure in the domestic policy on the other. It is the logical outcome of the reactionary policy of the U.S. imperialists. Both these two factors are interacting and will lead them to their inevitable failure.

# BEN SUC...

(Continued from page 3)

military reverses in the area led Saigon to abandon the town...

"According to Vietnamese officials, almost everyone in Ben Suc was committed in one way or another to the Viet Cong movement".

*AP, Jan. 16, 1967*

"A first division spokesman asked why Ben Suc could not be pacified and the villagers left in their homes, said: "We would have to leave two battalions here to protect the pacification cadres. The battalions would be riddled away or may be everrun if the 272nd regiment should come down here. Anyway we can't spare two battalions".

Whether 2 battalions or the whole U.S. expeditionary corps are mustered, the Washington aggressors can never pacify South Vietnam. They can only multiply their crimes and fan up the flame of hatred of the people. Ben Suc is written off the map but the people of Ben Suc are still alive. They will turn U.S. and henchmen's disguised concentration camps into resistance centers like Ben Suc. The U.S. can continue its inhuman methods for a whole life-time without ever succeeding in imposing its domination upon the Vietnamese people.

**TO THE READER**

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

# TRAN THI LY, A MILITIA HEROINE

(Continued from page 4)

*WHEN the first American bomb was dropped on the North, Tran Thi Ly was 17. Two years have passed in which, fighting side by side with other members of her village's militia, Tran Thi Ly has scored great achievements both in production and the fighting. The National Assembly has awarded her a Military Exploit medal, third class, and another one, second class. Sent as a representative of the heroic people of Quang Binh to the Congress of Heroes and Elite Fighters against U.S. Aggression, for National Salvation, recently held in Hanoi, she was elected a Hero. She was the youngest of the 111 heroes and heroines chosen at the Congress.*

# Here and There in D.R.V.

(Continued from page 4)

A CREAGE in Thanh Hoa province makes up for 1/10 of North Vietnam's total. In the conditions of intensive U.S. air raids, the province's agricultural output in 1965 even increased by 7.3% compared with 1964, and 13.5% compared with 1960. In hydraulics, in 1965 the province built 112 projects, 15 more than the previous year. Another 1/6 projects was built in 1966. Hydraulic work building has become a mass movement. Many co-ops have earmarked funds to equip themselves with mechanical pumps, or designed and built many projects themselves. By the end of 1966, 40,000 ha of land had been freed from water-logging, 235,000 ha under rice or an increase of 21.5%, and 35,000 ha under subsidiary and industrial crops or an increase of 20% over 1965, had been irrigated.

In animal husbandry, by April 1, 1966, the herd of pigs in the province had increased by 14.8% compared with Oct. 1, 1965, the increase being 23.7% in the collective sector, and the herd of buffaloes by 3.2%. At present, the whole province has 314 engineering stations, as against 113 in 1965 and 77 in 1964.

# IN THE FIRST 20 DAYS OF JANUARY 1967

(Continued from page 8)

### OTHER L.A.F. ATTACKS

On January 7 and 8, the regional army and guerillas of Mo Duc district beat off an enemy raid, wiped out 150 troops, overran 1 post north of the town, attacked 3 blockhouses and wiped out 3 platoons in Duc Pho district (south of the town).

### QUANG NAM

On January 6 and 10, many enemy posts were destroyed, 5 companies and 2 squads of the enemy rangers and security men were completely put out of action, 200 troops killed or wounded.

### BIEN HOA

On Jan. 3, 4 and 5, the guerillas repeatedly launched surprise attacks on the enemy engaged in raids and searches on Highway 20, killing or wounding 137 soldiers (including 50 Yanks) heavily damaging 2 M.113 armoured cars and seizing a great quantity of weapons and war materials.

## IN THE FIRST 20 DAYS OF JANUARY 1967

# The L.A.F.:

● Neatly wiped out Puppet Ranger Battalion 32 (**Black Tiger**) and Security Company 994 in Ben Tre province *(Jan. 16)*.

● In Operation **Cedar Falls**, put out of action 850 enemy troops, destroyed or seriously damaged 60 military vehicles including 44 tanks and M-113 and M-118 armoured cars and downed 10 aircraft *(in the first 10 days of Jan. 1967)*.

● Knocked out 1 puppet regular battalion 20 km from Saigon *(Jan. 15)* and Company **Leopard's Skin** 40 km Southwest of Saigon *(Jan. 14)* ● Virtually wiped out 1 puppet battalion some 100 km Southwest of Saigon *(Jan. 16)*.

● Knocked out of action 1 security company, routed 4 puppet platoons and badly mauled another company, destroyed or damaged 14 armoured cars, 40 machine-guns, 150 km East Northeast of Saigon *(Jan. 7, 17 and 18)*.

IN the first 20 days of January 1967, the L.A.F. foiled enemy Operation *Deckhouse V*, caused heavy losses to the troops engaged in Operation *Cedar Falls* and wiped out many enemy battalions in the Mekong delta.

According to *Liberation Press Agency*, at 11.35 p.m. on January 16, the L.A.F. and the guerillas attacked the encampment of puppet *Black Tiger* ranger Battalion 32 and security Company 994, 36km north of Thanh Phu, where the marines landed for Operation *Deckhouse V*, and neatly wiped out both units consisting of 600 enemies (including the whole battalion staff and American advisors).

Thus in the first 16 days of January 1967, the regional L.A.F. knocked out 1,500 enemy troops in Ben Tre province and fought off their raids.

In the first 10 days of Jan. 1967, the local L.A.F. of Thu Dau Mot province dealt deadly blows at Operation *Cedar Falls* aimed at "wiping Ben Suc town" off the map in the "Iron Triangle" area, some 50 km northwest of Saigon. The regional L.A.F. put out of action 850 troops (most of them were G.I.'s) brought down 10 planes, damaged 2 others and destroyed or damaged 60 military vehicles including 44 tanks and M.113 and M.118 armoured cars.

The heaviest blow dealt at the G.I.'s in this operation was the L. A. F. assault on Dau Tieng airbase, about 15 km northwest of Ben Suc town (Jan. 11 afternoon) which resulted in 200 Yanks killed or wounded.

The 2nd attack took place on January 5 in Thanh Truyen village, taking a toll of 90 G.I.'s.

Reporting on Operation *Cedar Falls*, *UPI* wrote on Jan. 19 that it marked the bloodiest week in this war for the Americans and that most of American casualties in the Iron Triangle were caused by mines and traps set by the "Viet Cong".

■

WHILE the Yanks were given due punishment for their barbarous crimes in Ben Suc, in Can Giuoc (about 20 km south of Saigon) the puppet troops also exerted every effort to realize their "rural pacification" plan.

But everywhere they had to pay dear for their crimes.

On January 15 night, the L.A.F. together with local guerillas launched a surprise attack on the encampment of puppet Battalion 2, Regiment 46, Division 25, 6oom from Can Giuoc town. After 20 minutes' fighting the L.A.F. completely controlled the battlefield. The whole battalion was neatly wiped out and a big haul of weapons seized.

On the previous day, January 14, puppet security Company *Leopard's Skin* was also completely put out of action, 40km southwest of Thu Thua town. Its whole weaponry was seized.

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THE L.A.F. on January 17 overran 1 blockhouse, blew up 1 bridge and shelled the Cang Long military sub-sector in Tra Vinh province.

On January 19, one puppet battalion of Regiment 14, Division 9, encamped in the areas where their post had been demolished 2 days before, was completely knocked out right on that night.

Thus, in only 3 days (Jan. 15, 16 and 19) 3 battalions of enemy main forces were virtually wiped out in the Mekong delta following the commitment of U.S. troops to the area and the launching of Operation *Deckhouse V*.

■

ABOUT 150km east northeast of Saigon, the L.A.F. at 1.05 a. m. on January 18 mounted a violent attack on the encampment of puppet armoured car Squadron 38, Regiment 44, Division 23 on Phan Thiet—Ma Lam Highway (17km north of Phan-Thiet), according to L.P.A. reports.

After 25 minutes' fighting the L.A.F. demolished 12 M.113 armoured cars, damaged 2 others, destroyed more than 40 machine guns and wiped out almost all the troops onboard.

In the period under review, 2 American companies in Ba Go were attacked by the L.A.F. Many G.I.'s were killed or wounded. The enemy had to give up their raid.

One day before, the L.A.F. stormed 3 enemy positions close to Phan Thiet provincial capital including its airfield, 4km Southwest of the town, causing great casualties to the enemy.

On January 7, a stronghold 75km northeast of Phan Thiet was attacked by the regional L.A.F. Puppet security Company 219 was neatly wiped out, 4 platoons of "Psychowar" troops and civil guards were badly mauled, 119 troops were killed or wounded, 22 others were captured and a large quantity of arms and military equipment seized.

Security Company 445 was also routed while trying to rescue the beleaguered troops.

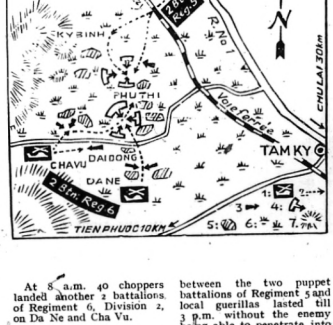
(Continued page 7)

## THE TAM KY VICTORY

LESS than 10km west of Tam Ky provincial capital (south of Quang Nam province) was a liberated area lying along the railway. Its riceplants were ladden with golden grains. The inhabitants were preparing to defend the fruits of their labour.

At 7 a.m. on November 6, 1966, enemy mortar shells from Tam Ky pounded an area less than 8km long between Da Ne and Ky Binh village. Enemy planes came and mercilessly rained bombs on it.

Meanwhile, two battalions of Regiment 5, puppet Division 2, penetrated into Ky Binh village in two prongs from Highway 1.




**Legend:**

(1) *Landing place of heliborne troops.* (2) *Itinerary of enemy columns.* (3) *Harassment attacks by guerillas.* (4) *Battle of annihilation given by the L.A.F.* (5) *Villages and hamlets.* (6) *Ricefields.* (7) *Hilly regions.*

At 8 a.m. 40 choppers landed another 2 battalions of Regiment 6, Division 2, on Da Ne and Cha Vu.

The enemy's clear intention was to take the inhabitants between two prongs and to loot their rice.

The first thrust into Ky Binh village was intercepted by the guerillas who, with accurate sniper fire, wiped out almost completely a puppet platoon. The battle between the two puppet battalions of Regiment 5 and local guerillas lasted till 3 p.m. without the enemy being able to penetrate into the hamlets.

The two American "advisors" commanding these units asked for air and artillery support, and shifted their units to an attack on Phu Thi hamlet, Ky Yen village.

No sooner had the enemy columns moved to Phu Thi, than they were besieged. As soon as they caught sight of the L.A.F., the two American "advisors" called in a helicopter and took to flight together with the puppet regiment commander. The L.A.F. attacked the enemy troops from three directions. Battalion 1 was tightly encircled. The puppet battalion commander and the signal group were wiped out right in the first minutes. Without commander, the whole battalion ran helter-skelter but was completely put out of action within 10 minutes.

## 4 PUPPET BATTALIONS FOUGHT OFF IN RICE-LOOTING RAID

Soldiers of Battalion 3 threw their guns and fled away but were pursued by the guerillas. Many were killed or wounded, many weapons seized.

The second column composed of 2 battalions of Regiment 6 heliliffted on Da Ne and Cha Vu was trapped in a guerilla mine-field and suffered many casualties. Panic-stricken, the enemy called for aircraft and artillery to clear the way for them to rush into Dai Dong hamlet. They mounted three assaults from 9 a. m. to noon which were all repulsed. At 4 p. m. they had to ask for fresh air and artillery support.

When the mortar shellings stopped, the puppet troops tried to destroy the guerilla gunnests but the L.A.F. opened fire and mounted a flank-attack, wiping out a whole enemy company. The other companies fled to Da Ne and Cha Vu hoty pursued by the L.A.F.

Thus, the "sweep" by 4 puppet crack battalions ended in complete failure. Once again, the L.A.F. have shown that they hold the initiative on the battlefield.



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